

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network communication system having a number of independent subscribers (8...10) connected to the network through corresponding coupling devices (11...13) is able to rapidly propagate the transmission rate of each data message sent between subscribers and thereby efficiently control the receiving devices on the network to receive the data messages at their transmitted rate. Coupling devices (11...13) are able to recognize the rate at which each transmitted message is sent and prepare a special message to be sent to each of the other receiving devices on the network. The special message contains information regarding the transmission rate of the data messages and is used to control the receiving devices reception rate.